



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **National Drinking Water Infrastructure Survey Reveals Arizona Needs \$9.1 Billion to Meet Needs; A 462% Increase Since 1999**

PHOENIX – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens expressed today Arizona's need for more drinking water infrastructure funds after the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) third Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment reported that \$276.8 billion in water infrastructure funds were needed across the country. Arizona needs 3.44% of the national drinking water infrastructure funds and ranks 10th nationally for those needs.

"Water infrastructure serves a lifetime for communities," said Owens, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. "As communities' grow, so too must the commitment to sustainable infrastructure financing."

To continue to ensure safe drinking water, Arizona's municipal private water utilities will need to make an estimated \$9.1 billion in investments over the next 20 years.

Arizona's projected drinking water needs of \$9.1198 billion represents an increase of \$7.4974 billion, or 462%, from the 1999 survey. Arizona also ranks 3rd in dollars needed nationally for arsenic (behind CA and WA) and 8th in needs for large community water systems. Large community water systems serve a population of 50,000 or more.

"Arizona's large need reflects the challenges confronting water utilities as they face the expense of aging infrastructures and impending growth," said Executive Director Jay Spector.

The state's three greatest areas of need are transmission and distribution lines, treatment, and storage. Arizona's transmission and distribution needs are at 79.6% of the total needs which is higher than the national average of 68.9% of the total needs in other states because of the tremendous growth Arizona has experienced.

The report and related information are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/needssurvey>.

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#### **ABOUT THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA**

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. WIFA's funds are capitalized by contributions from the US Congress and the state of Arizona. As a leader in water infrastructure finance, WIFA has become a premier financial institution both in Arizona and nationally. Visit WIFA's Web site at [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov).